

REMARKS

Claims 54, 69, and 79 are currently amended to clarify the invention without acquiescence in cited basis for rejection or prejudice to pursue in a related application. No new matter has been added.

§ 103 REJECTIONS

Claims 54-96 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Dieckman, D. et al., “DISCOE: Distributed Design and Analysis to Preserve Intellectual Property” (hereinafter Dieckman) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,853 issued to Stephens, Jr. (hereinafter Stephens). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that Dieckman and Stephens, neither alone nor combined, discloses the claimed limitations of “ranking the one or more circuit design resources based upon a prior activity of a user in a prior session at the portal”. The Office Action cites to **col. 7, ll. 45-67**, and **col. 8, ll. 1-9 and ll. 15-48** of Stephens and concludes that “based upon a user selection or search, the **returned information** is ranked and presented to the user” and thus that Stephens discloses the above claimed limitations.

Applicants first respectfully submit that Stephens’s user’s selection or search does not constitute “prior activity”. Rather, as the user’s selection or search directly results in returned information and thus constitutes a present or current activity.

Applicants further respectfully submit that Stephens does not disclose, teach, or suggest the above claimed limitations of ranking the one or more design resources based upon a prior activity of a user in a prior session. The user selection or search directly results in the returned information and thus does not constitute a prior activity in a prior session. Claim 54 is currently amended to clarify the present invention as embodied in claim 54 and its respective dependent claims.

Applicants thus respectfully submit that claim 54 is allowable over Dieckman and Stephens for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 69 and 79 respectively constitute the computer program product and the system claim reciting similar limitations as does claim 54 and

are thus believed to be also allowable over Dieckman and Stephens for at least the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above remarks, all claims are believed to be allowable. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-4047, referencing billing number 7010223001. The Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any underpayment to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-4047, referencing billing number 7010223001.

Respectfully submitted,
Bingham McCutchen LLP

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By: _____


Erich C. Tzou
Registration No. 56,927

Three Embarcadero Center
San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: (650) 849-4962
Facsimile: (650) 849-4800